
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 100

AN ACT CONCERNING BAZAARS AND RAFFLES.

SUMMARY:

This bill changes the initial governmental entity to which an organization submits its bazaar or raffle license application and fees, from the local municipality to the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). Under the bill, DCP will remit the appropriate portion of the fee payments and forward the applications to the municipality, rather than the municipality submitting them to the state. By law and unchanged by the bill, both the municipality and DCP retain the same application review powers and fee amounts.

The bill expands to all organizations authorized to hold a bazaar or raffle the ability to hold the event in a municipality other than the one that granted the permit, if the nonpermitting municipality provides written approval. The bill specifically gives investigatory jurisdiction for violations to the state's attorney office where the event occurred.

The bill allows organizations to use all types of bazaar or raffle advertisements.

It also eliminates the requirement that these organizations submit a post-event verified statement to the municipality. By law, DCP examines the statement and compares it to the organization's application and must keep it on file and available for public inspection for one year.

The bill also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

APPLICATION AND FEES

The bill makes DCP the initial governmental entity to which an

organization submits its application and fees for a bazaar and raffle license, instead of a municipality. It requires DCP to forward the applicable fees and a duplicate copy of the application to the municipality's police chief or the chief executive officer for municipalities without a police department (municipal official).

Current law requires an organization to submit its bazaar or raffle application and fees to the appropriate municipal official, who must then forward the original application to DCP within five business days. By law, the municipality and the state each receive a portion of most license fees. The bill requires DCP to remit the appropriate portion of the fees to municipalities, rather than the municipalities remitting them to the state.

By law, applications must be made in duplicate, duly executed and verified, and contain certain information on the organization and when and how the bazaar or raffle will be conducted. Both the municipality and DCP review the application to determine if the applicant is qualified to hold, operate, and conduct a bazaar or raffle. The municipality must determine if the members of the applicant organization are, among other things, persons of good moral character and have never been convicted of a felony.

BAZAAR OR RAFFLES IN OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

The bill expands to all organizations authorized to hold a bazaar or raffle the ability to hold the event in a municipality other than the one that granted the permit, if the appropriate official in the nonpermitting municipality provides written approval. Current law only allows the following groups, with written approval, to hold events outside the permitted municipality: (1) organized churches, volunteer fire companies, or veteran groups, for bazaars and raffles and (2) federally tax-exempt organizations for raffle drawings.

The bill also allows the police chief in a municipality to provide written approval. Current law only allows the municipality's chief executive officer to do so.

ADVERTISING

The bill allows organizations to use all types of bazaar or raffle advertisements. It does so by eliminating the following advertising restrictions in current law:

1. organizations cannot advertise the raffle's location, time, and prizes using a sound truck, billboard, or television;
2. organizations can only post one sign measuring up to 12 square feet on the premises where the event will be held or the prizes awarded and one where the prizes were displayed; and
3. nonprofit organizations can additionally advertise (a) on their websites, (b) by e-mail, or (c) on lawn signs on property with the property owner's consent, which cannot be larger than 18 by 24 inches and must comply with any applicable local ordinance or planning or zoning regulation.

VERIFIED STATEMENT

The bill requires that these organizations submit a post-event verified statement to DCP rather than the municipality. Current law requires them to submit duplicate statements to the appropriate municipal official, who must forward the original statement to DCP. The bill requires filing a single statement and that the municipal officials no longer receive a copy. By law, DCP examines the statement and compares it to the organization's application. The bill eliminates the municipality's duty to do so.

By law, the statement must include certain information on the bazaar or raffle results, including,

1. the amount of gross receipts;
2. number and price of raffle tickets sold;
3. each expense incurred or paid, with contact information of the person;
4. net profits and how they are used; and

5. information on prizes offered.

BACKGROUND

Organizations Qualified to Conduct Bazaars or Raffles

The law allows the following to conduct, operate, or sponsor bazaars or raffles if the municipality where they are located has adopted the Bazaars and Raffles Act: veterans; religious, civic, fraternal, educational, and charitable organizations; volunteer fire companies; and political parties and their town committees. Raffles may also be promoted and conducted if sponsored by towns acting through a designated centennial, bicentennial, or other centennial celebration committee.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/04/2014)